GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:139
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
CASH CROP GROWERS IN KERALA .
Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Minister of State for Commerce recently visited Kerala and had discussions with the representatives of Cash Crops growers and especially Rubber growers recently;

(b) If so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) Whether the Government has offered liberal assistance for the replantation of the Rubber trees in Estates; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Interactions were held with stakeholders in the Cardamom, Organic Spices and Vanilla sectors. Discussions with various stakeholders of the rubber industry included the need for continuing export of natural rubber, enhancement of replanting subsidy and the need for strengthening of Rubber Producers' Societies (RPSs) among others.

(c) & (d): Due to the prevailing high prices of NR, the small growers are reluctant to replant. Hence, the possibility of increasing the subsidy for replanting came up for discussion to encourage growers to replant old plantations.